

State Dept., NSC, USAF reviews completed

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CHAL-1208
Copy 7 of 7

6 October 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Conversation with Messrs. Cumming and Elting, Department of State,
5 October 1960

25X1D 1. At Mr. Bissell's request I visited Messrs. Cumming and Elting on 5 October to informally outline for them the proposal under consideration for retention of Detachment B in place as a means of meeting requirements generated by Phil Strong in connection with [REDACTED] 25X1D

25X1D [REDACTED]

25X1D 2. I advised these gentlemen that our projected route would avoid Afghanistan and might or might not involve [REDACTED] at the northeastern leg of the mission. I pointed out that in order to do the job, we would need to [REDACTED] and that if (as I suspected it would be) the question of refueling [REDACTED] became a political problem, we would probably be obliged to rely on an inflight refueling system using a [REDACTED] with refueling either in [REDACTED] I told them that an IFR capability was six to nine months away, and in all probability an equal amount of time would be required for [REDACTED] 25X1D

25X1C

25X1D

3. I said that my purpose in raising the matter at this time was simply to sound them out on whose support would be required in the Department of State for such a program over the next two years. Cumming said that since Mr. Herter had supported the earlier proposal to return the Detachment from Turkey, he felt the final vote would have to be his in this matter. In the meantime he said that he would take the question up with Mr. Merchant to get an informal opinion. I then suggested that once this had been done, Mr. Cumming plan to call Dick Bissell direct with the results, not involving me further in this matter. To this he agreed.

4. Cumming inquired about the status of our cover for the U-2, and I told him I could report nothing more than at our last meeting, at which time I told him that we were still running head on into [REDACTED] opposition

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25X1C

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on continued use of [redacted] I did tell him that the matter was under active study and that we might be obliged to go to [redacted] in the end. I also advised him that the [redacted] mechanism was still in being, although not by very much. Mr. Cumming then discussed at some length Air Force and Navy reconnaissance in the Baltic area since the first of July, and nothing more of pertinence was said by him. In closing Mr. Elting observed that he assumed the proposal for [redacted] U-2 detachment was dead. I advised him to the contrary, at which point he made a vigorous statement that he thought the Department's position on such a move would be 100 per cent in opposition to give U-2's [redacted] I told him that [redacted] had expressed himself as strongly in favor of receiving U-2's, and I assumed that he could not do this without having had [redacted] blessing. We did not pursue this matter further. I then brought Mr. Elting up to date where we stood on a matter he had raised with me on 4 October--a letter [redacted] had received from the editor and publisher of "This Week" Magazine, who was interested in doing a story on the U-2. I said that Lockheed had told us that they had discovered while checking with "This Week" on another matter that the publication of the "Reader's Digest" article on the U-2 in the October 1960 issue had diminished considerably their interest in getting on with the business of their own story. He made notes on this, presumably in order to advise [redacted]

SIGNED

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